

- 1 1. A protector for protecting an elongated portion of a rope or webbing, said  
2 protector comprising a flexible material that is formed in a spiral position along a length  
3 of said flexible material.
- 1 2. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible material is a heat settable  
2 material and said protector is heat set in the spiral position.
- 1 3. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector has an inner diameter of  
2 at least about 0.8 cm.
- 1 4. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector has an inner diameter of  
2 no more than about 2.5 cm.
- 1 5. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector includes a sufficient  
2 width of flexible material that it wraps around itself at least one and one half times.
- 1 6. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector is formed into a circular  
2 spiral shape.
- 1 7. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector is formed into a  
2 triangular spiral shape.
- 1 8. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector is formed into a square  
2 spiral shape.
- 1 9. A protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said protector weighs less than about  
2 2.5 ounces.

1 10. A protector for protecting an elongated portion of a rope or webbing, said  
2 protector comprising a flexible material that is wrapped onto itself in a wrapped position  
3 along a length of said flexible material.

1 11. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said flexible material is a heat  
2 settable material.

1 12. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector has an inner diameter  
2 of at least about 0.8 cm.

1 13. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector has an inner diameter  
2 of no more than about 2.5 cm.

1 14. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector includes a sufficient  
2 width of flexible material that it wraps around itself at least one and one half times.

1 15. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector is formed into a  
2 circular spiral shape.

1 16. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector weighs less than about  
2 2.5 ounces.

1 17. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector is formed of a  
2 urethane.

1 18. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane  
2 having a thickness of about 0.1 cm to about 0.2 cm.

1 19. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane  
2 having a width of about 5 cm to about 20 cm.

1 20. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane  
2 having a length of about 35 cm to about 80 cm.

1 21. A protector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said protector permits the rope or  
2 webbing to move relative the protector when said protector is pressed against a frictional  
3 surface.

1 22. A method of using a protector for an elongated portion of a rope or webbing, said  
2 method comprising the step of wrapping a flexible material around the elongated portion  
3 of the rope or webbing such that said flexible material wraps around itself at least one and  
4 one half times.

1 23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said flexible material includes a first  
2 diameter when not wrapped around the elongated rope or webbing that is smaller than the  
3 thickness of the rope or webbing.

1 24. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said flexible material comprises a  
2 urethane.

1 25. A method of using a protector for rope having a first diameter, said method  
2 including the step of wrapping a flexible heat set material around the rope, said flexible  
3 heat set material being shaped in a spiral having a second diameter that is smaller than  
4 said first diameter of the rope.

1    26.     A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said method further includes the step  
2    of pushing the flexible heat set material along the rope to a desired location after the  
3    flexible heat set material is wrapped around the rope.